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A coalition of more than 100 human rights organisations, including secular, Muslim, Christian, Baha'i and Jewish groups, opposed the resolution, saying it sought to provide cover for anti-blasphemy laws and the marginalisation of religious minorities in repressive countries.

"We have been very opposed to this idea that there should be laws or human rights principles protecting religions, as opposed to protecting people," said Elizabeth Cassidy, a policy expert for the **US Commission on International Religious Freedom**. "Over the last few months the publicity has really spiked and there is growing awareness of the problems that ensue from legally enforcing these ideas."

The concept has critics among liberal Muslims who say it undermines their right to question their own faith, and among ultra-conservatives in such countries as Saudi Arabia who fear it would outlaw the practice of criticising non-Muslim faiths.